

C. Remarks

The claims are 1 and 5-11, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 7-11 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the intended invention. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the substitute specification at page 9, line 14, through page 10, line 6, page 11, lines 20-21, page 12, line 8, and page 23, lines 16- 20. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner alleged that claim 1 is not clear, because the capability of being electrodeposited depends on plating conditions as well as the composition of the plating solution.

In response, claim 1 has been rephrased for clarification, providing additional details regarding the composition of the solution. Accordingly, withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-6 stand rejected under 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0074336 A1 (Daimon) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,435,898 (Commander). Claims 1 and 3-5 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from the Rhen et al. article (Rhen) in view of Commander and U.S. Patent No. 3,032,486 (Sallo). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the merits of the rejections, Applicants would like to briefly discuss some of the features of the presently claimed invention. That invention, in pertinent part, is related to a solution, which includes ionic Fe, a hexachloroplatinate (IV) salt, tartaric acid as a complex agent, and a chloride ion. The molar ratio of the ionic Fe to the hexachloroplatinate (IV) salt is from 0.75 to 3. The concentration of the ionic Fe is from 0.01 mol/L to 0.05 mol/L. The pH of the solution is from 7.0 to 9.0. The chloride ion concentration is not lower than a molar concentration of the hexachloroplatinate (IV) salt. This solution is composed so that it is capable of depositing FePt or FePtCu when plated, i.e., other components present in the solution are not a part of the FePt or FePtCu composition being deposited by plating. As a result of using tartaric acid as a complex agent, a hexachloroplatinate (IV) salt, and a chloride ion, a stable plating solution is formed.

Daimon is related to a method for producing fine particles using heat deposition. Applicants respectfully submit that this reference fails to disclose or suggest a solution, which includes a hexachloroplatinate (IV) salt and a chloride ion. Thus, Daimon cannot affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

Rhen is directed to a bath for depositing FePt films. Applicants respectfully submit that this reference also fails to disclose or suggest a solution, which includes a hexachloroplatinate (IV) salt and a chloride ion.

Commander and Sallo cannot cure the deficiencies of either Daimon or Rhen. Commander and Sallo were cited for the teachings related to complexing agents.

These reference fails to disclose or suggest an electroplating solution, which includes the hexachloroplatinate (IV) salt and the chloride ion.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, whether considered separately or in any combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the presently claimed elements.

Wherefore, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and expedient passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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